IX.

A Letter to Sir George Baker, *Bart. on the ſucceſsful uſe of the Preparations of Lead in ſome Hæmorrhagies. By* Henry Revell Reynolds, *M. D. Fellow of the College of Phyſicians, and of the Royal Society, and of the Society of Antiquaries in London.* Vide *Medical Tranſactions, Vol. III.* 8vo, London.

SIR GEORGE BAKER, in his excellent eſſays on the properties of lead, had oftener than once expreſſed his regret that the preparations of that mineral, although poſſeſſed of ſingular powers in reſtraining hæmorrhagies, cannot be uſed internally with ſafety. Dr Reynolds, therefore, flatters himſelf that Sir George Baker, for whom he expreſſes the higheſt eſteem and friendſhip, will learn with ſatisfaction, that he has frequently employed both the tinctura ſaturnina and ſaccharum ſa-

turni with ſucceſs and ſafety, and without the leaſt colic enſuing.

It would ſeem that he firſt began this practice about ten years ago with a woman who was a patient in the Middleſex hoſpital. She was between forty and fifty years of age, and laboured under a violent hæmorrhage from the uterus, without any particular pain in the region of that viſcus, and without any ſigns of ſcirrhus in it or its appendages. She was very much reduced in fleſh and ſtrength; and he obſerved her daily to ſink under the continuance of the diſcharge, although various means were employed to check it. He ordered her to take twenty drops of tinctura ſaturnina every four hours in a convenient vehicle. The third doſe of this mixture leſſened her flux, but produced a moſt violent colic. The apothecary very prudently ordered her to deſiſt from the tincture, and gave her an opiate. The colic, however, did not yield ſoon or eaſily. But the pain was at length removed by repeated doſes of opium on the third day, and ſhe was purged with cathartic ſalt.

On the fourth or fifth day the hæmorrhage re-

returned with as much violence as before. Dr Reynolds determined again to have recourse to the same medicine; and to try at the same time to prevent its mischievous effects upon the bowels. Concluding that the lead had excited a peculiar spasm in the bowels, and that this spasm yielded more readily to opium than any other means, he thought it probable that it might be prevented by exhibiting opium along with the preparations of lead. He therefore ordered fourteen drachms of the saturnine tincture, and two of the thebaic tincture, to be mixed together; and of this mixture he directed twenty drops to be taken every four hours in a little barley-water.

The event satisfied Dr Reynolds's utmost expectations; for in twenty-four hours the flux was very much diminished, and in forty-eight it entirely ceased. Not the least colic was now produced, though the medicine was afterwards taken morning and evening for several days successively. The belly was either spontaneously open, or was rendered so by the most gentle means. The poor woman went out of the hospital in good health: she

ſoon recovered her fleſh and ſtrength; and Dr Reynolds ſaw her two years after, when ſhe continued well.

Encouraged by the ſucceſs in this caſe, Dr Reynolds adds, that he has ſince exhibited the ſame mixture in the ſame doſe to ſeven other patients labouring under hæmorrhage. In all theſe caſes it has been uſed with ſucceſs, and without once exciting colic. Till lately he has never uſed the ſaccharum ſaturni: But he obſerves, that within the laſt four months he had employed it in three caſes. The firſt caſe in which he adminiſtered it was that of a young gentleman labouring under an hemoptyſis. He gave it in the following form:

℞ Sacch. ſaturn. gr. i.
Conſ. roſ. rub. gr. iv.
Tinct. theb. gut. iii. f. pil. ſextis horis ſumenda.

In two days the ſal. plumbi was increaſed to a grain and a half, and the tinct. thebaica to five drops, in each pill; which he continued for ſeven or eight days.

Before he took this medicine, although he had been bled ſeveral times, had taken nitre

and other neutral ſaline medicines freely, and had been reſtrained from all food excepting rennet-whey, barley-water, and fruit, his pulſe had been full and hard, and had beat 108 ſtrokes in a minute. After he had taken it four days, his pulſe became ſoft and leſs full, and beat no more than ſeventy ſtrokes in a minute. The ſpitting of blood ceaſed on the fourth day from his taking this pill, and did not return. During the time of his taking it, he had regularly two motions every day; and he never once complained of the leaſt pain in his bowels.

The ſecond caſe was that of a lady in her fifty-ſecond year, labouring under an uterine hæmorrhage. She took the ſal. plumbi at firſt to the extent of half a grain, with two drops of thebaic tincture, and afterwards to the extent of a grain, with four drops, made into a pill, with a little conſerve of roſes. It had the happieſt effect on the hæmorrhage without any injury to the bowels; and ſhe was ſoon reſtored to perfect health.

The third caſe was that of a man in his thirty-ſixth year, labouring under an hæmorrhage from the noſe, and who had lately been affected

affected with a very ſevere venereal complaint, for which he had been ſalivated. He took the ſal. plumbi to the extent of a grain and a half, united with four drops of the thebaic tincture, every ſix hours for a week, with the effect of preventing any return of the bleeding, and without any ſenſation of colic.

Dr Reynolds concludes with remarking, that it is by no means his intention to recommend the indiſcriminate uſe of theſe medicines, being fully aware of their deliterious qualities: but that his only wiſh is to mention the manner in which he has uſed them with effect and with ſafety. And if the combination here uſed be in other caſes attended with ſimilar ſucceſs, it will be of no ſmall importance in the practice of medicine.